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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Shinichi OKAMOTO

SERIAL NO.: UNASSIGNED (PCT/JP01/00130)

FILED : JULY 30, 2001

FOR : METHOD OF MANUFACTURING FERRULE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the same as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 18, line 1, before claim 1, change "CLAIMS" to

--WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

Amend claims 1-8, and add new claims 9-20, as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a ferrule, comprising the steps of:

carrying out electrocasting in an electrocasting tank

using at least one wire as a mother die set in at least one holding jig,

rotating the at least one wire while maintaining the at least one wire static in a longitudinal direction of the electrocasting tank during electrocasting, and

removing the at least one wire from a resulting electrocast product.

2. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

3. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electocasting step is carried out in the electrcasting tank under autorotation and circulation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

4. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire and also under rotation of the entire electrocasting tank containing a positive electrode.

5. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrcasting tank, and further comprising the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detectes a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

6. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

7. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

8. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

9. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

10. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electocasting step is carried out in the electrcasting tank under autorotation and circulation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

11. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire and also under rotation of the entire electrocasting tank containing a positive electrode.

12. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrcasting tank, and further comprising the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detectes a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

13. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under

autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrcasting tank, and further comprising the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detectes a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

14. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

15. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

16. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

17. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 3, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

18. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

19. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

20. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 3, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-20 are now in this application, and are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

The claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, positively recite the steps starting with an active verb, and eliminate the numerals.

In addition, the claims have been amended to eliminate any multiple dependencies. For this reason, claims 9-20 have been added.

A marked-up copy of the amendments to the claims is attached hereto.

Please charge any additional fees incurred by this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1524.

It is hoped that this Preliminary Amendment will facilitate an examination of the application on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a ferrule, comprising the steps of:

carrying out electrocasting in an electrocasting tank [10] using at least one wire [9 such as of a metal or a plastic] as a mother die set in [a] at least one holding jig [5],

rotating the at least one wire while maintaining the at least one wire static in a longitudinal direction of the electrocasting tank during electrocasting, and

removing the at least one wire [9] from [the] a resulting electrocast product[, wherein electrocasting is carried out under rotation of the wire while it is maintained static in the longitudinal direction].

2. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein the electrocasting [treatment] step is carried out in the electrocasting tank [10] under autorotation of the at least one wire [9] together with the at least one holding jig [5].

3. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the electocasting [treatment] step is carried out in the electrcasting tank [10] under autorotation and circulation of the at least one wire [9] together with the at least one holding jig [5].

4. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the electrocasting [treatment] step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire [9] and also under rotation of the entire electrocasting tank [10] containing a positive electrode [4].

5. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2 or 4], wherein the electrocasting [treatment] step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire [9] together with the at least one holding jig [5] in the electrcasting tank, and further comprising the step of stopping [the] electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detectes a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

6. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2 or 4], [wherein] further comprising the step of supplying a direct current [is supplied] from a rectifier [per] for each holding jig [5].

7. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6], wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs [5] are arranged equidistant from [the] a positive electrode [4] in the electrostatic tank.

8. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7], wherein the electrocasting [treatment] step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle [33] of a [circulating] pump [or a filter pump] into [a] an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank [10] so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank [10].

9. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out in the electrocasting tank under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

10. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electocasting step is carried out in the electrcasting tank under autorotation and circulation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig.

11. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire and also under rotation of the entire electrocasting tank containing a positive electrode.

12. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrcasting tank, and further comprising the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detectes a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

13. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under autorotation of the at least one wire together with the at least one holding jig in the electrcasting tank, and further comprising the step of stopping electrocasting treatment at a stage when a watthour meter attached to one of the holding jigs detectes a predetermined watthour value so as to achieve diameter control of products to be manufactured.

14. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

15. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of supplying a direct current from a rectifier for each holding jig.

16. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

17. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 3, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

18. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 4, wherein there are a plurality of holding jigs, and the holding jigs are arranged equidistant from a positive electrode in the electrostatic tank.

19. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 2, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained in the electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.

20. (New) The method of manufacturing a ferrule according to Claim 3, wherein the electrocasting step is carried out under one-way jet flow of an electrocasting solution supplied from a nozzle of a pump into an electrocasting solution contained in the

electrocasting tank so as to circulate and agitate the electrocasting solution in the electrocasting tank.